



TEXAS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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A joint endeavor of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Health

Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council

Meeting of July 19, 2001

Minutes

The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council met in the Board Room of the Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 3505 Gaston Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75246.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kimberly Arlinghaus, MD
Mary Adams
Cheryl Amoruso
The Reverend Kenneth Archer
Kate Burgess
Mary Carlile, MD
Tom Cowan

Pat Craig, PhD
Carol Gage
Walter High, PhD
Carrie Morris
Cathy Rich, JD
Jesse Seawell, IV
Les Young

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Nancy Childs, MD
Julia Hannay, PhD
Mary Beth O'Hanlon

Susan Penfield, MD
Jeff Latham
Roger Webb

TBI PROJECT STAFF PRESENT:

Larry Swift
Susan Valley

Kathy Griffis-Bailey

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Carrie Morris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcomed Council members present and asked everyone to introduce him or herself.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carrie Morris asked whether anyone was present to give public comment. There were no public comments.

REVIEW OF MINUTES 4/20/01 MEETING:

Carrie Morris asked whether there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held in Austin, April 20, 2001. Pat Craig offered typographical changes, including on page 2, corrected spelling of Carol Wright's name; on page 3, corrected spelling of "severe"; on page 4, added comma, on page 5, change "6mo" to "6 months"; on page 6, change "Bait" to "BIATx"; and correction to pagination. There being no further corrections or additions, the minutes were approved as corrected.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Carrie Morris noted that she would be moving and would send new address and telephone information in the near future.

Carrie Morris reported on the status of the stakeholder process for review and revision of the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Trauma Registry rules. There were meetings of the stakeholder group on May 23rd and June 11th. At the last meeting, a consensus was reached concerning the need to require identifying information in the datasets with certain limitations. The list of required data elements as proposed by the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council (TBIAC) has been reduced slightly to be more realistic and manageable. She discussed the potential need for statutory changes concerning whether registry data may be used to contact those registered.

House Bill 1676 passed almost unanimously in the 77th Texas Legislature. This is a major accomplishment. The bill's co-author, Representative Harryette Ehrhardt of Dallas remarked, "This isn't how you pass a law, this is how you pass a miracle." Council Member Kate Burgess of the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) may be involved in writing the rules to implement the legislation. Later this summer, Representative Ehrhardt is convening a meeting at Baylor between the brain injury community and TDI Commissioner Jose Montemayor. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the development of rules and the need for training of insurance company prior authorization staff and case managers concerning the law. Council members should send any ideas for the meeting to Mary Carlile or Kate Burgess.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Larry Swift advised that Council membership would be complete by the time of the next meeting in October. The Texas Education Agency has appointed Tom Cowan and Health and Human Services Commissioner, Don Gilbert, has appointed consumer representative, Annie Walker. The appointment of consumer representative, Manuel Rodriguez, is under consideration by Commissioner Gilbert, but likely will be made official very soon.

Council committees met earlier in the day and will be making reports later in the meeting. Staff work with the Identification Committee and the Barriers Committee has begun. In addition, an ad hoc committee has been working on by-laws for the Council that also will be presented for review and comment later.

The first year budget for the grant was finalized and submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) earlier this spring. There is the potential for a carry-forward amount of \$173,000 from the first to the second year of the grant cycle. The grant has been transferred from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to the Texas Department of Health (TDH). The budget for the second year of the grant cycle, a work plan, and an evaluation plan have been approved by HRSA.

Staff members have been participating in the HHSC long-term care committees, including the Children's Policy Council (formerly the Children's Long-Term Care Policy Committee) and the Texas Long Term Care Access Committee.. Developmental Disabilities Council.

Children's Policy Council and the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities are seeking new members. Council members should consider applying for or making nominations. Expenses for the cost of participating on these Councils are reimbursable.

Council members and staff are involved with four presentations at the Brain Injury Association of Texas (BIATx) TBI Conference in Irving, Texas. In addition, staff has made a presentation to the TLC Access State Committee, the Children's Policy Council and others.

Staff will attend the Brain Injury Association National Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia, the Grantee meeting in Washington, D.C., and the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators "State of the States" Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Carrie Morris will attend the Grantee meeting, as well.

The contract with the BIATx is dependent upon receiving a carry-forward in the grant from HRSA. At present the amount of the carry-forward is uncertain; when that amount is known, the contract will be executed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Identification Committee -- Walter High, Chair

The committee report is included by reference.

Walter High acknowledged the work done by staff to prepare for the meeting.

In general, the Committee is happy with the direction taken by the Traumatic Brain Injury Trauma Registry Stakeholder meetings. There is a consensus among the stakeholders that reporting of identification information, especially name and address, should be required. The list of variables originally recommended by the Council has been pared down, and the Identification Committee recommends Council support of the remaining list.

There are two key issues emerging in the stakeholder meetings: (1) what data elements should be collected; and (2) how the data may be used once it is collected. Statutory limitations on the ways in which the data can be used may exist. The Committee recommends that the Council avoid being diverted from its main objective to require that additional identifying information be included in the database. The Committee recommends that the Council emphasize that additional identifying information improves the integrity of the data and pursue the issue of the use of the data at a later time.

A third issue concerns changes to the data elements reported in the rehabilitation hospital dataset. The data elements collected from rehabilitation hospitals is fairly complete at the present time, but the Committee does recommend adding the following items: Social Security Number; address of residence; education level; whether the injury was work-related; school district enrollment during the rehabilitation hospital stay; school district enrollment on discharge from the rehabilitation hospital; and making the discharge disposition variables the same as those for acute care hospitals.

The Committee reviewed the booklet and the self-mailer brochure and recommended their distribution at the Brain Injury Association of Texas (BIATx) Conference.

Ken Archer made the motion, seconded by Mary Adams, to accept the Identification Committee report. The motion passed.

Barriers Committee -- Mary Adams, Chair

The committee report is included by reference.

Mary Adams thanked Barriers Committee staff member, Susan Valley, for her assistance preparing for the meeting.

Senate Bill 367 passed the 77th Texas Legislature. The bill reestablishes the Promoting Independence Initiative under another name and with changed membership. Council members are not eligible for membership, but the Committee suggested that staff and Jesse Seawell IV attend and observe. There is a push in this initiative to have nursing homes complete permanency plans that go beyond simply placing a client's name on a waiting/interest list – to make permanency planning a reality for children in nursing homes. In addition, the group is working to recruit and develop appropriate foster and adoptive homes for all 1200 children who presently reside in nursing facilities.

The Consolidated Waiver Pilot Project starts in the San Antonio area (Bexar County) in September and results in a change in the slots available in the Community Living Assistant and Support Services (CLASS) Waiver and other waiver programs. The Consolidated Waiver Pilot emphasizes clearing the 1992 and 1993 waiting/interest lists. The Traumatic Brain Injury Project is working with the Department of Human Services and the HHSC to insure that people with traumatic brain injury are participants in the pilot, and serve on the evaluation committee.

Applications for membership on the Children's Policy Council are available and due to HHSC by July 31, 2001. Council members are encouraged to apply and give the application to others, and then sign a list indicating their interest.

Mary Adams and Susan Valley participate on the Vendor Fiscal Intermediate (VFI) Option work group. This is the "voucher option" for managing personal care attendants, versus the "(direct service) agency option." State agencies involved with waiver programs have just completed their training. Various waiver programs phase in the VFI option in the fall of 2001. Jim Conroy from California has developed a nationally used evaluation tool and has permitted the Texas Department of Human Services to use parts of it in the evaluation phase of the VFI option. Parts of the tool may be used for quality assurance purposes, and, pending the availability of grant funds, a contract may be offered to expand this function.

The Ticket to Work Initiative is in development. It provides for Medicaid eligible clients to work without losing Medicaid medical insurance benefits, and for others to "buy in" to Medicaid for health insurance. A pilot is set to begin in January, and rules will be finalized this fall. The Committee recommended that TBI Project staff, Les Young or Cheryl Amoruso participate in this initiative.

The 23 statewide Access Groups are working with HHSC to develop a statewide health and human services information and referral service with a common intake form in an effort to overcome barriers to access for individuals in need of services. Technology problems, networking among the groups, and agreement on common data elements are some of the issues under consideration. Larry Swift serves on the state TLC Access oversight committee.

The Barriers Committee recommends that the Education Committee create a pre-test and post-test format for educational events sponsored by the Council. The purpose of the testing is to demonstrate the lack of, and improvements in, knowledge of TBI among health care professionals and the general public.

The Committee discussed the possibility of initiating a TBI Waiver proposal in Texas. Twenty-three of 50 states have a TBI Waiver.

The Committee reviewed the 77th Legislative Impact List. Several members requested copies of the list.

Walter High made the motion, seconded by Les Young, to accept the Barriers Committee report. The motion passed.

Education Committee – Rev. Kenneth Archer., Chair

The committee report is included by reference.

The Committee recommended several changes to the self-mailer brochure, including: expanding the format to 8 1/2" x 14" to allow for more questions. They recommended adding questions about the kinds of information needed, the common problems experienced, and whether the injured person had been told whether he or she had sustained a concussion.

The Committee recommended that the color version of the logo also have a three-dimensional font.

The Committee reviewed the TBI informational booklet recommends a substantial revision of the text. Some suggestions included calling the booklet, "TBI in Texas – Piecing it All Together," adding new facts about TBI, and changing the tone of the text to be more affirmative/positive. Additional target audiences should be policy makers, media representatives, and health administrators.

Future Committee initiatives include:

- developing of a CD-ROM and web resources for consumers;
- writing a one page resource of basic referral information piece for hospitals and state agencies;
- providing education about TBI to specific groups of physicians; and
- increasing education for the general public through the development of a Power Point presentation available to download from the web;
- producing a video; [The Committee will have a video from the Mental Health Association to view at the next Council meeting. A video from the Alabama Head Injury Association also may be available to view.]
- creating of public service announcements using production capabilities at the Texas Department of Health, potentially including announcements for radio, television, movie theatres and other venues.

Mary Adams made the motion, seconded by Pat Craig, to accept the Education Committee report. The motion passed.

Mary Adams made the motion, seconded by Les Young, that the members of the Council be provided an opportunity to review changes to the self-identifier brochure and that the Education Committee be authorized to incorporate changes and complete the revision of the brochure prior to the next meeting of the Council. The motion passed.

By-Laws/MOU Committee – Mary Adams, Chair

Mary Adams led the Council in a review of revisions to the draft of the By-Laws. The Council made several changes.

On a motion by Kim Arlinghaus, seconded by Ken Archer, the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council adopted the By-Laws as amended by unanimous vote.

Larry Swift reported that David Zane of Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Program has been unable to respond to the most recent draft of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Department of Health and the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council. David Zane has committed to working with the TBIAC Committee and staff to have a draft ready for Council consideration at the next meeting of the TBIAC.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS:

The date and location of the next meeting are Friday, October 19, 2001, in Austin, Texas.

The Council agreed to review the former mission statement and develop an updated mission statement as one agenda item.